

SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF INVENTION

DISTRIBUTED POLICY DRIVEN SOFTWARE DELIVERY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of software updates. More specifically, the present invention relates to a solution that allows for distributed policy driven software delivery.

[0002] The rise of Internet attacks via computer viruses and other techniques has caused significant financial damage to many corporations. Current anti-virus software operates by comparing incoming files against a list of "offensive" code (e.g., known viruses). If a file looks like one of these offensive codes, then it is deleted and the system protected. There are several major problems with this approach, however, with regard to modern virus attacks.

[0003] First, if the virus is new and not in the list of known viruses, the anti-virus solution will not identify it is a virus and therefore it will not keep it from spreading. Second, modern worms such as "code red" and "SQL slammer" do not rely on any of the methods of transmission guarded by most virus protection systems. These new strands of viruses are designed to attack the computer system directly by exploiting faults in the software used by the computer to perform its operations. The viruses are therefore able to crack corporate networks and replicate without the intervention of anti-virus software.